



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

*The project involves the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00524 (Arrigoni Bridge) carrying Route 66 over Route 9, Connecticut River, P&W Railroad, and local roads. The thirty span structure built in 1938 carries two lanes of traffic and one sidewalk in each direction. The structure's total length and curb to curb width are 3428 feet and 45 feet respectively.*

### Public Comments and Questions from Public Information Meeting held 12/14/10:

- The completion date is scheduled for 2012. Does that mean two construction seasons?  
Yes, but not necessarily a full second season.
- Will residents living in the shadow of the bridge on the Middletown approach be impacted by the project either by traffic or construction? Construction will be concentrated on the two main spans over the Connecticut River and under the Portland Approach viaduct. There is no work planned for the Middletown Approach viaduct.
- Has the Department considered staging that allows 3 lanes of traffic during peak hours?  
This was investigated by the Department but ruled out. The peak hour one-way traffic volume is approximately 2,200 vehicles. The Departments' traffic engineers estimate that a single traffic lane can accommodate approximately 1,800 vehicles per hour based on a 2 second interval between vehicles. The difference of 400 vehicles per hour will result in short, 5 to 10 minute delays during peak hours. Reducing the work zone to allow three lanes of traffic at peak hours was not justified by the traffic volumes.
- In the presentation it was noted that rehabilitation work on the Arrigoni Bridge was included under the List 19 bridge program for routine maintenance that Department forces could not provide due to funding. Why has the scope changed? The original scope for this project was to perform repairs that were beyond the capacity of the Department's Maintenance Forces. The scope changed as a result of the recently completed bridge inspection report that rated the main span deck a 3 (serious condition).
- Can the traffic lights adjacent to the bridge be re-timed to permit more cars to pass under a green light? The Department will look into this. **{Follow-up to this question as project progress continues- The signal at the intersection with St John Square has had the timing increased 10 seconds for left turn from Arrigoni and right turn from Hartford Avenue onto Arrigoni. The additional time for these turning movements appears to have helped with traffic flow}.**



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- Has the Department contacted the local Traffic Commissions and /or Authorities? A Town Roads Meeting was held on November 29, 2010 to present the project to town officials and answer questions. Individuals from the City of Middletown and Town of Portland were present.
- Has this project been coordinated with the Town of Portland Gateway Project? The Town of Portland was contacted about the Gateway Project and replied that the project is scheduled for completion in June, 2011. Any required coordination between the two projects will take place during construction.
- Will the project require any boating restriction on the Connecticut River? No. All project related work will be stage from temporary scaffolding suspended from the bridge.
- The bridge was originally constructed without sidewalk barriers. When the barriers went up it appears that the roadway width was narrowed. Can a thinner sidewalk barrier be placed to increase the roadway width? The barriers were placed to protect vehicle traffic. The roadway width was not reduced by these barriers.
- Can the Department use prefabricated components and night work to speed up the construction? Pre-fabricated components will be specified for the sidewalk, barrier, and grid deck. At this time it has not been determined if night time work will be permitted.
- Due to the present economy, can this project be used to provide jobs to the community? It is not known if this has been done before on DOT projects. The Department will look into this further.
- The 75th anniversary of the Arrigoni Bridge will take place in August, 2013. Will this project be completed by the anniversary date? It is anticipated that this project will be completed by that date.
- Are the Bridge Inspection Reports available? Are they available on the Departments' web site? They are not available on the Departments' web site. An electronic or hard copy can be obtained by contacting the Department's Project Engineer, Michelle Lynch [Michelle.Lynch@ct.gov].



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- The Middletown crosswalk by the church on the north side is heavily used. Can the Department do anything to improve this crossing? Roadway work outside of the limits of the bridge will not be included into this project.
- Will there be impacts to Middletown residents living adjacent to the bridge? No. Under this project no work is being performed on the Middletown Approach viaduct.
- The state has switched from road salt to using a liquid brine solution for managing snow and ice on roads. Has this switch to brine accelerated the bridge deck deterioration?  
The answer to this question is not immediately known. It will be looked into.
- Comment: The City of Middletown has an ordinance requiring snow to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours. The state does not remove snow from the Arrigoni Bridge sidewalks. Can anything be done about snow removal on the bridge sidewalks? Answer: State Maintenance Forces responsible for clearing sidewalk snow have been contacted.
- The original Arrigoni Bridge was built in 2 years. Why is 2 years needed to complete these repairs? Stage construction requirements to maintain traffic flow prolongs today's construction projects.

### Other FAQ's

- When will the highway construction start? The Middlesex Corporation was awarded the contract on 4/26/11 and the contractor was given a Notice To Proceed with work on May 9, 2011. Temporary daytime lane closures are scheduled to begin the week of June 6, 2011.
- When will the lane restrictions on the bridge start? Permanent lane closures restricting the bridge to one lane in each direction will be in effect as of Tuesday, June 28, 2011. In Portland, Silver Street between Brownstone Avenue and Main Street will be restricted to one way traffic. Only traffic entering Silver Street FROM Main Street area will have access and this will be enforced. The one way condition will be in place for the duration of the project or when Portland feels it's appropriate to remove the restriction.



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- How can I find up-to-date information about lane closings and traffic delays? A portable smart work zone system which provides speed and delay information as well as camera views of Route 66 & 17 in Portland and Route 66 at St. John Square in Middletown has been installed to provide motorists with real-time traffic conditions. The public can access the system website at [www.arrigonibridge.com](http://www.arrigonibridge.com).

Additional information is also available at the Department's [Travel Resources](#) page. You will be able to visit our [CT Travel Info Map](#), view ConnDOT's [Traffic Cams](#), or view current [Traffic Incidents](#) being maintained by the Department's Highway Operation Center.

- Is there a way to get notified on my phone, pager or by e-mail? You can sign up for [E-Traffic Alerts](#) which sends alerts via e-mail or [Follow eTraffic Alerts on Twitter!](#) The state is divided into four distinct regions also known as Districts; eastern, central, southwestern, and western. The Arrigoni Bridge is located in District 1 – [Central Connecticut](#) and District 2 – [Eastern Connecticut](#)
- What all is involved in the repairs to the bridge? The rehabilitation includes replacement of the concrete filled steel grid deck and sidewalks on the main spans. All work will be completed from the bridge and from a temporary work platform suspended below the bridge. Other work includes replacement of elastomeric bearings, pedestal repairs on the Portland side, new bituminous overlay on the main spans, and new expansion joints. Go to [Arrigoni PIM \(4mb pdf\)](#) for more information.
- When will bridge construction be complete? The project is scheduled to be completed in November 2012.
- What is the project schedule? The Notice to Proceed was May 9, 2011. The construction duration of 555 days results in a construction completion date of November 14, 2012. Construction will be performed in one pre-stage and three stages as follows:

Stage 1 - Construct work/containment platform underneath bridge deck. Attach temporary precast concrete barrier curb to bridge deck Remove and replace south portion of bridge deck and south sidewalk.  
June 28, 2011 – November 30, 2011

Stage 2 "Boat Stage" - Remove and replace center portion of bridge deck.  
December 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012



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Stage 3 - Remove and replace north portion of bridge deck and north sidewalk.

May 1, 2012 – October 1, 2012

- Is there any long term plan for replacement of the Arrigoni Bridge? There is currently no short or long term plan to replace the Arrigoni Bridge. A Middletown Area River Crossing Study was completed and the results have been published. Please go to [http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/middletown/marcs\\_intranet\\_cover\\_page.doc](http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpolicy/middletown/marcs_intranet_cover_page.doc) Navigate to the various links located on the cover page of the report for more in-depth information.
- Why do some of the portable message signs on the website ([www.arrigonibridge.com](http://www.arrigonibridge.com)) not display anything? The signs will not display messages unless the delay is 10 minutes or more at the bridge. The bridge area signs do display messages at all time for delays.
- Do the messages indicate travel time over the bridge? There are two message board systems in place, regional and local. The local message boards in the immediate area of the bridge in Middletown and Portland indicate, in minutes, the time to travel thru the work zone area. The regional message boards located on I-91 in Meriden and Hartford, I-691 in Meriden and Route 9 in the vicinity of exit 5 and exit 21 in Chester and Berlin indicate the additional time "delay" to get over the bridge. **{Update to this response 8/31/11- Some of the message boards have been relocated and the message signs on Route 9 southbound no longer display time delays (10 minutes thru work zone)but instead display distance delays (Delay Exit 18 – 16) based on traffic speeds at the sensor}.**